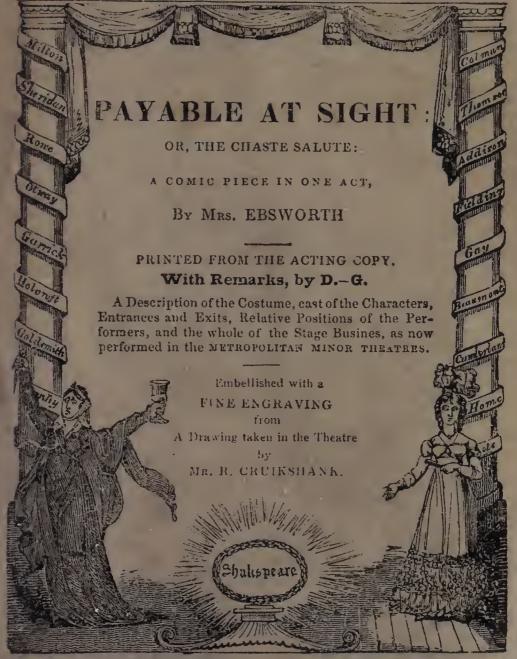
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Panable at Sight.

Ladi Rigid. Since it must be so, I shall do you the honour of allowing you a chaste salute.

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### PAYABLE AT SIGHT;

OR, THE CHASTE SALUTE.

A COMIC PIECE,

In One Ret,

BY MRS. EBSWORTH.

PRINTED FROM THE ACTING COPY, WITH REMARKS, BIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL, BY D. .- G.

To which are added,

A DESCRIPTION OF THE COSTUME,—CAST OF THE CHARACTERS,—
ENTRANCES AND EXITS,—RELATIVE POSITIONS OF THE
PERFORMERS ON THE STAGE, AND THE WHOLE
OF THE STAGE RUSINESS,

As performed at the

#### METROPOLITAN MINOR THEATRES.

EMBELLISHED WITH A FINE ENGRAVING, From a Drawing taken in the Theatre by Mr. R. Cruikshank.

#### LONDON:

JOHN CUMBERLAND, 2, CUMBERLAND TERRACE.

CAMDEN NEW TOWN.



#### REMARKS.

Danable at Eight; or, the Chaste Salute.

COLONEL FRANKLEY, a gentleman in difficulties, vegetating at Hampstead for fear of being locked up-studying Locke, and how to avoid his creditors-is out of the good graces of a certain decorous old lady, whose easting vote is indispensable in an affair of the heart. Mrs. Rigid, herself a pattern of conjugal propriety, cannot tolerate the smallest deviation from the moral railroad, that is to earry happy couples to the end of their journey. Her virtuous scrupulosity takes alarm at the most venial infraction of her matrimonial law, which holds a kiss, if it be not purely platonic, a high crime and misdemeanor, either in Bachelor betrothed, or Benedick bound. Colonel Frankley had won over the dowager to consent to his marriage with her niece; when, being caught in the immoral fact of giving a chaste salute to a pretty milkmaid—the spark's frolic kindled her into a flame-good bye to Miss Emily !- She shall now be the bride of old Major O'Doherty.

Forswearing pleasure, and, above all things, pretty girls, the colonel trudges in philosophical dudgeon between Hampstead and Highgate, to the sore annoyance of his half-famished fag, Philip, who relishes not these long-winded rambles, that give an appetite beyond the power of Locke on the Understanding to satisfy. During a hungry colloquy on the Heath, a joyful shout announces a wedding in the village. "Is the bride pretty?" inquires the incurious stoic. The young lass herself soon answers the question, by running in from her merry party in mere playfulness, and electrifying his philosophy with a pair of sparkling black eyes! He will pay for the wedding dinner—no, he won't! the fat major has been beforehand

with him. Then he will be father—no, god-father to her first child: surely that post has not been bespoke by his pursey rival! He demands to receive a pledge that his liberal offer is accepted: the kiss reaches a second edition, and Farmer Testy, the bridegroom, is witness to the imprint! "Tis the custom in London to salute another man's wife."—"More shame for London!" cries the Hampstead Heath Corydon. To prevent the little liason from getting wind, and to quiet the jealous clown, Frankley promises that when he is married, the salute taken from Janet shall be returned by Testy to the lady of his choice;—and, to make the bargain legal, he gives him a note, regularly drawn on a bill-stamp—"Payable at Sight, a kiss to the bearer for value received!" This is bill-ing and cooing with a vengeance!

To the surprise and joy of master and man, aunt and niece make their appearance in the village. The meeting on both sides is accidental; but scarcely has the colonel made his formal bow, than that paragon of decorum, Mrs. Rigid, apologises for having so entirely misconstrued his motives, and lauds his generosity to the skies, in presenting a marriage portion to the pretty milkmaid, to whom the unfortunate kiss was given in a pure platonic spirit!—The colonel is too polite and prudent to contradict the old lady; but, scorning to win the young one under false colours, he undeceives her, and loses nothing by his candour.

Asperities soothed, and difficulties overcome, Frankley is at last in a fair way to get married; and Testy smacks his lips at the thought of presenting his promissory note for payment. In the joy of his heart, he points to the colonel as his most honourable debtor. Another chaste salute! 'Tis verily too bad! Who can tell what may be the amount of paper in circulation? Such a run for kisses would make bankrupt of the best pair of lips in Christendom! She demands to take up the bill: in vain Testy fumbles to find it; 'tis dropped, and Janet has pieked it up; but meeting Major O'Doherty, he gives her a smack, and discounts it!

Mrs. Rigid, having arranged the wedding preliminaries, is not a little puzzled to find out why the young lady has so suddenly changed her mind. Emily, blushing to tell the real cause, invents an excuse, (how many a true thing is spoken in jest!) that the colonel is under pecuniary embarrassment. Is that all? Then will Dame Platonic become responsible for his debts; and an opportunity is at hand for the exercise of her generosity-a deputation of the colonel's creditors being at that moment in full conclave at the Eagle Tavern! The discounting had produced a duel. Frankley, considering himself insulted by the major, sends him a challenge; wings the old militaire; the latter, in a tiff, entrusts the promissory note to a tippling valet, through whose carclessness it again comes into the possession of its original owner. Testy now makes sure of the chaste salute, and he is not disappointed; for Mr. . Rigid, having taken upon herself the payment of the colonel's debts, feels herself bound to honour every outstanding bill. The farmer, therefore, with many contortions and wry faces, receives his demand in full from her lips—a hearty buss, given with business-like punctuality!

Such is "Payable at Sight;" a lively, laughable, little drama, not a little indebted to the humorous acting of Charley Hill, that fails not to attract a good audience, and is always seen with pleasure.

皎了 D.——-(i.

#### Cast of the Characters,

#### As performed at the Royal Surrey Theatre.

Colonel Frankly	Mr Green
Philip (his Valet)	
Testy (a Farmer)	
Lady Rigid	
Emily (her Niece)	
Janet	

Villagers, &c.

#### Costume.

COLONEL FRANKLY.—Regimental uniform. PHILIP.—Livery.

TESTY.—Blue coat—striped waistcoat—cord breeches—top-boots—hat.

LADY RIGID.—Sarsnet flowered dress.

EMILY. - Sarsnet pelisse - muss - boa - reticule - hat and feathers.

JANET.—Coloured muslin dress—white apron—black mittens—cap and bonnet.

#### STAGE DIRECTIONS.

The Conductors of this Work print no Plays but those which they have seen acted. The Stage Directions are given from personal observations, during the most recent performances.

R. means Right; L. Left; C. Centre; R. C. Right of Centre; L. C. Left of Centre; D. F. Door in the Ftat, or Scene running across the back of the Stage; C. D. F. Centre Door in the Ftat, R. D. F. Right Door in the Ftat; L. D. F. Left Door in the Flat, R. D. Right Door; L. D. Left Door; S. E. Second Entrance; U. E. Upper Entrance.

<sup>\*\*</sup> The Reader is supposed to be on the Stage, facing the Audience.

## PAYABLE AT SIGHT;

#### OR, THE CHASTE SALUTE.

#### ACT I.

#### SCENE I.—Hampstead Heath.

Enter Colonel Frankley, walking slowly, and reading, followed by Philip, L.S.E.

Phi. My dear master, with all due reverence to your literary mania, I beg leave to suggest, that a little rest would be infinitely agreeable to me, and is absolutely necessary for you.

Fra. Silence!

Phi. For two hours have we been parading backwards and forwards here on Hampstead Heath. There must be something wonderfully taking in that novel.

Fra. Novel! - Do you think I would read such trash?

Herc-can you read?

Phi. Can I read? — What a question! — I, that was head-monitor in the Lancastrian school!

Fra. Psha!-Read, then.

Phi. [Looking at the book, and readiny.] "Locke on the Understanding." Phow! [Stifles a laugh.

Fra. Yes, on the understanding, sir.

Phi. Well, I should never have guessed such a work could so long have engaged your attention, sir; for it must have been all Greek to you.

Fra. This book, sir, teaches everything.

Phi. I am happy to hear that, sir. Does it teach people how to pay their debts?

Fra. No; but it teaches them to forget them.

Phi. In that case, sir, send it to your creditors, for they have shocking long memories. 'Twas of little use our quitting London to ruralize awhile: our dunning friends have resolved to taste the sweets of country air, too; for, as I passed the Eagle Tavern, at Camden New Town, in my way hither, I saw two of your friends regaling themselves with a rump-steak and sherry.

Fra. The devil!

Phi. No, sir, only some of his familiars. Nay, never vex yourself, sir; put the best face you can upon the matter; meet your creditors boldly, and, as you can't pay them at present, offer to renew your bills. [Producing stamps.] I always carry stamps about me. You had better put one or two of them in your pocket, sir; they may be serviceable in getting rid of a troublesome customer.

Fra. [Putting the stamps in his pocket.] Go to the devil, you and my creditors, too! and leave me to the

calm delights of solitude.

Phi. Beg pardon, sir; but why should you affect misanthropy? On the eve of being united to a lovely woman, with a handsome fortune, that would have been truly serviceable, and with whom you appeared to be desperately enamoured, on a sudden you take French leave of the lady, and her aunt's villa, and fly to this little village of Hampstead, where for four days we have been vegetating; and for what? Beeause you have chosen to turn philosopher!

Fra. Aye, that was the reason I gave you on our departure;—but as to philosophy, I affect it only when I can't avoid it; and I never was more in want of it than

at present.

Phi. How so, sir?

Fra. You shall hear. For three years I was a constant visitor at Lady Rigid's: it was impossible I could behold her lovely niece without throwing myself and my fortune at her feet.

Phi. Your fortune, sir?—Hem!

Fra. Silence, blockhead! All was finally concluded—the marriage settlements were drawn, when my Lady Rigid, a romantic, testy dowager, but one of the best-hearted ereatures in the universe—

Phi. Gave you a rival in fat Major O'Doherty.

Fra. Quite wrong, Philip. She had promised me her niece's hand, and her word is inviolable. She is not like the generality of women; she has a thousand good qualities, and but one fault—the result of her education, I imagine. She insists that a man should be faithful to his wife; and this she carries to such an excess, that it becomes perfectly ridiculous: the smallest act of infidelity is with her a crime not to be forgiven.

Phi. Well, sir, knowing all this, of course you were on

your guard.

Fra. Assuredly; I was fidelity itself; — when, as ill-luck would have it, on the very eve of our marriage, returning fatigued from a long ride, I stopped at a farmhouse on the hill side to refresh myself, where I saw one of the prettiest little girls—But you know who I mean—little Lonisa.

Phi. Oh, bless her! she's a duck!

Fra. Well, we fell into a gossip, while she was presenting me some milk, which was most delicious. I had no money with me; so, just by way of thanking her for her hospitality, I was imprinting a few kisses on her ruby lips, when the door opened, and who should enter but Lady Rigid herself, my intended and immaculate aunt!

Phi. That was a pozer!

Fra. Justification was out of the question; not a word would she hear; and, in her passion, she informed me, that her interest should be given to Major O'Doherty.

Phi. That was a settler, sir!

Fra. On my return to the villa, a letter from Emily announced her cheerful acceptance of the major's proposals, and firm resolution of never seeing me again.

Phi. That was a clincher!

Fra. Prayers and protestations were vain—the match was broken off; so, in my despair, I fled, and fixed myself for a time in this village, renouncing the world, its pleasures, and, above all, pretty girls!

Phi. For a time?

Fra. Do you doubt my resolution, Philip? If you knew how miserable I have been since I lost the sole object of my affections, and that by my own folly—[Violins are heard without.] Eh! what's that?

Phi. I forgot to tell you there was a wedding this morning;—stay a moment, and you'll see the bridal party re-

turn.

Fra. I stay! what, to witness their happiness, when I have sacrificed my own? No, no! I renounce pleasure—I abjure love—I detest women! But is the bride pretty?

Phi. Judge for yourself, sir: it's little Janet, the daughter of our landlord; the bridegroom is Thomas Testy, a farmer, and tenant of Lady Rigid's, who is owner of this estate.

Fra. What! that little black-eyed beauty thrown away upon such an ill-looking, jealous monster? Was he mad

to fix upon such a woman?—For, excepting Emily, she is

one of the prettiest girls I ever saw.

Phi. [Looking off, L., and laughing.] Ha! ha! ha!—
The girls have ran off with her from Testy!— Here they come!

[Laughing heard without.

Fra. Philip, you may leave me; and-here! take this

book with you; I'll finish it on my return.

Phi. Um!-Good bye, Locke on the Understanding!

Fra. Away, rascal!

Phi. [Going.] I'm going, sir. [Returning.] Colonel! colonel! pray remember she's a married woman, and not come-at-able!

[Frankley threatens him, and Philip runs off, R.

FESTIVE MUSIC.—Enter JANET and Village Lasses, L.

#### AIR AND CHORUS.

[During which they playfully prevent her return.]

LASSES.

Run, Janet, run! He'll after you come.

JANET.

Nay, nay! I'm his wife, friends, and I must obey.

My freedom I've sold;

This small ring of gold

Hath bound me to him-my heart he must sway!

CHORUS.

Nonsense, Janet!
This is all folly
Do not forget,
Or be melancholy.
Cheer up! cheer up!

JANET.

I must haste away, &c.

[Exeunt Lasses, n.—Janet is going L., when Colonel Frankley detains her.

Fra. One moment, my pretty Janet.

Janet. Your pardon, sir; my husband is waiting for

me, and to-day, you know, my time should all be his.

Fra. Happy fellow! what would I not give to be in his place! [Taking her hand.] This is what I should have been doing—giving my hand to my dear Emily!

Janet. [Endeavouring to withdraw her hand.] But,

sir, I am not your wife.

Fra. I know that, my dear; but don't be afraid-I only want to speak to you. How could you think of getting married, Janet, without telling me - your father's guest, one of the family, as I may say? I delight in making wedding presents to young, pretty, and good girls, like you; -however, I am determined to find the wedding

Janet. No, you won't; for it's ordered and paid for already.

Fra. Ordered, and paid for!

Janet. Oh, dear, yes-three months ago! A rich military old gentleman, the owner of yonder park and mansion there, one Major O'Doherty, promised to pay all expenses.

Fra. [Aside.] The devil fetch him! he's ever my stumbling-block! [Aloud.] I should have liked so much to have done something for you, and especially for Thomas Testy; he is such a worthy lad! Eh! I have it! Mind, Janet, I shall be father to your first child.

Janet. Sir!

Fra. God-father, I mean.

Janet. Oh, sir! you do me too much honour; but— Fra. Surely, the major has not been beforehand with me there? The place is not bespoke?

Janet. No, sir.

Fra.

DUET .- COLONEL FRANKLEY and JANET.

Fra. Give me a pledge.

Janet. What pledge?

Fra. A kiss !

Janet. Oh, fie! what would my husband say? Such conduct he would disapprove.

Consider, 'tis our wedding-day. For his sake, I my suit prefer;

I wish to serve him, on my life.

You wish to serve my husband? Oh! Janet. In that case, I must play good wife.

Offers her cheek-Frankley salutes her.

Delightful girl! his fortune's made, Fra. Nor shall my favours linger here; Since I'm to be the god-papa, I must endow the bantling, dear. For all that I intend to give, I only ask a kiss.

Janet.

Another?
And you'll enrich my little boy?
In that case, I must play good mother!
[Frankley kisses her again.

#### Enter Testy, hastily, L.

Testy. [Aside.] Mighty fine! This is what they call commubial enjoyment, I suppose! I'm just in time!

Janet. [Screaming.] Alt! [Exit, running, R.

Fra. [Aside.] In for it again!

Testy. Saw anybody ever the like? 'Twas but an hour ago she faltered out "Yes!" like a hypocrite as she is, to me, and now I find her repeating the same to my gentleman here!

Fra. But, Testy, this is only a custom we have in London.

Testy. Infamous! to think of introducing London customs in our peaceful village!

Fra. Nay, nay; why all this fuss about a little kiss?

Testy. A little kiss! Why, it was a quarter of an hour long. Egad! if I had not come in the nick, I don't know how long it would have lasted.

Fra. Come, come, be patient!

Testy. Patient! The whole village shall hear of my

wrongs and her perfidy-the jilt!

Fra. [Aside.] That will never do for me! [Alond.]—Think better of it, my friend, and don't put yourself in a heat for such a trifle. You don't seem to understand our customs.

Testy. You call that a custom, do you?

Fro. To be sure; all the friends salute a bride on her wedding-day.

Testy. Then, I suppose, if you were married, you would

suffer me to kiss your wife before your face?

Fra. Certainly.

Testy. Come, that's a good 'nn: but you don't catch

me believing you.

Fra. Then you're wrong. Nay, more; promise me not to quarrel with Janet, and when I marry, you shall return the kiss to my wife, which I took from yours.

Testy. Pooh! nonsense! Fra. I pledge you my word.

Testy. I'll tell you what, mister, I'm not to be caught. You only say this by way of hush-money; and if you were to marry, and I were fool enough to call and ask the fulfil-

ment of your promise, you would deny such a one ever having been made, and order the door to be shut in my face.

Fra. Well, if you won't take my word, will you my bond? Testy. Your bond! [Laughing.] Ha, ha, ha! that would

be droll, indeed!

Fra. Droll, or not, you shall have it. [Taking out a pocket-book.] I have a stamp ready for the purpose.—

[Writing.] There! will that satisfy you?

Testy. [Taking it, and reading.] "Payable at sight, a kiss to the bearer for value received.—Charles Frankley." Well, I must say, this is fair enough; so there's my hand, and I forgive you. There can't be a cheat in this, for it's on a stamp. I'll be off, and make it up with my wife, too. [Singing.] Tol de rol, de rol! [Exit, L.

Fra. [Laughing.] Ha, ha, ha! poor devil! he's easily satisfied! Egad! if I had given such bills for every kiss I have had from maids, wives, and widows, my poor wife in embryo would have enough to do to honour them. I wish I had never put my name to any other kind!

#### Re-enter Philip, hurriedly, R.

Well, sir, what makes you in such haste?

Phi. Oh, sir! such news! Lady Rigid and her fair niece have just arrived in the village.

Fra. Emily here! What could have brought her?

Phi. A most elegant landau, and a superb pair of grays. Fra. Dolt! what could be her motive for coming hither?

Phi. That's just what I said to myself. But the most astonishing thing of all is, that on perceiving me, the ladies almost shrieked for joy. "Philip," said the old lady, "is your master, Colonel Frankley, here?" "He is, my lady," I replied, bowing very low—for I know her love of decorum. "What unexpected happiness!" said she. "Run and announce our arrival! No—stay! don't mention that you have seen us; I wish to afford him an agreeable surprise."

Fra. But, Emily! did she say nothing?
Phi. Not a word; but she looked—just so!

Fra. This is strange! Emily, who vowed never again to behold me! her aunt, who broke off the match! You must have been dreaming, fellow!

Phi. [Looking off.] It may be; but here come the living

angels themselves.

Enter Lady Rigid and Emily, R., who advances reluctantly.

Lady R. Come, come, Emily; how you loiter!

Fra. May I believe my eyes? [To Lady Rigid.] Is it you, my lady? Have you really had the kindness to cheer, by your presence, the heart of a wretched exile?

Emily. Assuredly, sir! I had such no intention.

Lady R. Silence, child, and let me speak! Colonel, we had no thought of meeting you here; we merely came to renew some leases; but, as I am always anxious to repair an involuntary error, I am happy in having it in my power to make my excuses to you.

Fra. To me?

Lady R. Yes, colonel; the truly sublime action you performed affected me with tenderness and admiration.

Fra. [Aside.] What can she mean?

Lady R. I shall never forgive myself for having blamed you, at the very moment you were evincing such chastity and nobleness of soul.

Fra. [Aside.] I'm in a fog! there is some mistake here.

[Aloud.] Really, my lady, these praises—

Emily. Embarrass you sadly! Spare him, my dear aunt! see how he blushes! let's speak no more of his noble actions.

Fra. Noble! noble! What can I have done? I really

should be glad to know. Philip, do you remember?

Phi. No, indeed, sir, except giving half-a-crown to the poor girl for the basket of eggs you broke whilst kissing her.

Fra. [Apart to Philip.] Silence, scoundrel!

Lady R. Colonel, colonel! it's of no use trying to conceal it—we know all. Little Louisa, the cottager's daughter, who was accustomed to bring eggs and chickens to the house, land seen you so often, that she had fallen desperately in love with you.

Fra. Poor child! [Aside.] If I had but known that— Lady R. But you, devoted to my niece, and faithful to your vow, like the great Scipio, would not be led astray from the path of rectitude, and generously portioned the little girl.

Fra. Really, my lady, I—

Phi. [Apart to Frankley.] Hush, my dear sir! let the old prude think so, if she pleases.

Lady R. You see I'm well informed. She was express-

ing her gratitude for your generosity, when I broke in so rudely, and misinterpreted your Platonic salute.

Phi. Hem!

Fra. It is surprising to me how your ladyship could become so well acquainted with the circumstance; for I'm certain I never mentioned it.

Emily. [Aside.] For a very good reason!

Lady R. Why, the little girl told me so herself.

Fra. The little girl herself!

Lady R. Yes, poor thing! she told me and my niece the whole affair.

Fra. My dear Emily, can this be true?

Emily. True! Certainly, that Louisa told us this.

Lady R. Thanks to your generosity, she is now the wife of your protegé, my game-keeper, and you are reinstated in my good opinion.

Fra. Is it possible? [Embracing each alternately.] My

dear Emily! my dear aunt!

Ludy R. Colonel! colonel! this conduct is incompatible

with my ideas of decorum.

Fra. Pray pardon me; excess of joy bewilders me!-All, then, is forgotten and forgiven, and you consent to crown my happiness?

Lady R. Certainly! After such an action, I would marry

you myself, blindfold.

Fra. [Aside, shuddering.] Heaven forbid!

Lady R. Unfortunately, the affair does not rest with me; our fate is in my niece's hands. I shall leave you to plead your own cause, and, if she can resist your winning ways, it's more than I could.

Phi. [Apart to Frankley.] A broad hint, sir, that!

Fra. [Apart to Philip.] But it won't take!

Lady R. My tenants are anxiously awaiting my presence at the hall, to settle about their leases. Adieu, for the present, my dear colonel!

Fra. Adieu, my dear aunt! Philip, attend her ladyship. Exit Lady Rigid, followed by Philip, L.

Emily. [Mimicking.] My dear colonel! [Laughing.] Ha, ha, ha! Really, your winning ways have quite subducd my aunt. A very leetle persuasion, I think, would convert you into my most honoured uncle! Curtsies.

Fra. Nay, nay, dear Emily, cease to banter. We are alone; with you I will have no concealment. I cannot

consent to gain your hand by a falsehood.

Emily. A falsehood! What can you mean?

Fra. That I am indebted to some fortunate and unlooked-for chance in the affair of little Louisa; for, in all that was related to you, there was not one word of truth.

Emily. [Aside.] He is a dear, candid creature, after all!

[ Aloud, affecting surprise.] How, sir?

Fra. Forgive my frankness; I never wish to appear in your eyes better than I am; and I own that with me beauty is irresistible: you cannot doubt it, since I adore you.—
But how did I discover that you were the most amiable of your sex? By comparison—

Emily. Insinuating thereby, that I ought even to ap-

prove of your infidelities.

Fra. I assure you, Emily, that Louisa's little affair was purely accidental—a mere pleasantry!

Emily. Well, then, we'll say no more on the subject;

but if such an affair should occur again-

Fra. I consent to forfeit all my claims, and renonnce all pretensions to your hand. Now to impart my happiness to your aunt!

[Exit, 1.-Noise and laughter heard without-Emily

retires up, c.

#### Enler TESTY, R.

Testy. Aye, aye, laugh away! I deserve to be laughed at, for making myself the jest of the village, with my ridiculous bill, "Payable at Sight," indeed! and perhaps losing the renewal of my lease—one misfortune treading on the heels of another! I shall go out of my wits!

Emily. [Coming forward.] Why, Testy, what has hap-

pened to distress you thus?

Testy. Matter enough of all conscience! [Looking up, and taking off his hat.] Eh! my young lady here? Dear! dear! I beg pardon, miss!

Emily. Nay, no ceremony; tell me what distresses you. Testy. First, madam, some neighbouring farmers are trying to get the lease of my farm, and as they are favoured by the steward, I fear I shall lose it, and then I'm a ruined man.

Emily. I have always known you as an honest, well-meaning lad, Testy, and will speak for you to my aunt.

Testy. Will you, indeed, miss? Well, come, come, this will be one comfort to me in the midst of my misfortunes and vexations.

Emily. What more vexations have you?

Testy. The worst, miss, that could happen to a newly-

married man. I've been made a dupe of, and, to mend the matter, I've made my folly known to all the world.

Emily. I don't understand you.

Testy. Oh, I may as well tell you the whole story at once, for you'll be sure to hear it; it's no secret, I assure you, miss. You must know, my lady, I was married this morning to little Janet, the innkeeper's daughter, here.

Emily. Indeed! I wish you joy! You have gained the

handsomest girl of the village.

Testy. ()h! aye, she's pretty enough for that matter; but, saving your presence, miss, she's the veriest jilt that ever drew the breath of life.

Emily. Oh, fie!

Testy. Why, would you believe it, miss? I hadn't lost sight of her five minutes, after coming from church, when I found her here being kissed by a fine London spark. My blood was np! I was for calling the whole village to witness her disgraceful conduct, when my gentleman assured me, 'twas only a custom to salute the bride; and, to mollify me, promised that when he married, I should take the same liberty with his wife.

Emily. [Laughing.] That was but fair. And you trusted

to his word?

Testy. No, indeed, miss; I warn't such a fool as that, neither. I've got his bond for a kiss, "Payable at Sight."

Emily. [Laughing heartily.] Ha, ha, ha!

Texty. There, now, you're laughing at me, too! Everybody laughs when I talk of my bond. I went to the lawyer's—he called me a fool; his clerk called "Cuckoo!" when I told him it was on a stamp. "Aye, aye, my fine fellow," says he, "you are stamped safe enough!" I clapped my hat on my head, and, pulling it over my brows, was leaving the office, when he called out, "Does it fit you still? don't it hurt you?" When I came out of the office, all the raggamuffins of the village took up the ery, and followed me here. I shouldn't wonder if they were to print my promissory note, and sing it about the country like a dying-speech!

Emily. Well, really I pity you; it is a most unlucky affair!
Testy. Unlucky, indeed! I see plainly the bill will
never be honoured; the giver is too bad ever to get a
wife. I wish I hadn't one—an artful, cheating, bewitching
creature!

[Retires up.

Re-enter Colonel Frankley, hastily, L.

Fra. My dear Emily, my happiness is complete! As

soon as I told your aunt I had obtained your pardon, she gave her consent, and to-morrow our nuptuals are to take

Testy. [Coming between them.] What do I hear? Tomorrow you are going to marry my young lady? Then I shall have a chance!

Emily. What mean you?

Testy. That Heaven has taken pity upon my innocence; that I shall no longer be the make-game of the village; that my debtor is an honest man, and that I'm only sorry he didn't take twenty kisses instead of one!

Emily. What are you saying, Testy?

Testy. The truth, ma'am, and nothing but the truth .--There stands my debtor, like a good, honourable gentleman as he is.

Emily. How? Frankley! Is this true?

Fra. [Aside.] I'm ruined now! [Aloud, offecting astonishment.] What is the meaning of all this?

Emily. That I have not forgotten the terms of our engagement, and withdraw my promise. In short, that I never will be yours.

Testy. Dear, good lady, don't say so! my credit is at stake. [Feeling in his pockets.] Eh! where have I put

the bill?

Fra. [Aside.] Pray heaven it's lost! [Aloud.] Nav, Emily, you see this half-witted bumpkin knows not what he says; he is either drunk or mad, and I defy him to show you the paper he is vapouring about. [Apart to Testy.]-Produce it, and I'll break every bone in your ugly body!

Emily. [Observing them.] He is intimidated by your presence, but I will not be trifled with; and declare to you, Testy, that you shall only have the lease of your farm on

condition of your bringing me that bill.

Testy. [Still rummaging.] Oh, you shall have it, my lady, you shall have it! Not here-not here! and I had it a bit ago! I must have left it at home! Don't be in a hurry, my lady; I'll run and seek for it. [Going.] Eh! there's Janet! [Calling off.] Janet! Mrs. Testy! Wife! come here-come quickly!

#### Re-enter JANET, R.

Janet. Bless me! what's the matter now? Testy. Have you seen a paper that I've lost? Janet. Yes, I have found it, sir.

Testy. Found ! - Oh, my dear Janet ! give it me-our

fortune depends on it!

Janet. Give it you, indeed! - No, indeed, sir! - You ought to be ashamed of yourself to keep such papers! If my father knew of your goings on-

Testy. Hist! hist, Mrs. Testy! if you hadn't contracted a debt this morning, I shouldn't have been obligated to

have taken such a bill for payment.

Emily. Let me see this paper, Janet; I trust you may

confide it to my care.

Janet. That would I willingly, my lady, but I haven't got it.

Testy. [Aside.] She arn't got it !- I'm ruined !

Fra. [Aside.] I'm saved!

Emily. 'Twas nothing but a little slip of paper, my lady, with a stamp at one end.

Testy. How did you know it was stamped?

Janet. Why, I met Major O'Doherty, and asked him to read it for me; - so he looked at it and laughed, and said, "My dear, if you will give me this bill, I'll discount it for you." — "Willingly," said I; and then he gave me a kiss.

Testy. That's the second to-day. Oh, you jilt! Where's

the paper?

Janet. Why, I left it with him, as he said it was paid, and of no farther use.

Fra. In the major's hands!

Emily. [To Frankley.] Now, sir, see to what your folly has led! - But I have done with you-to abuse my affection thus! [Going.] Don't attempt to follow me, sir; I never wish to see your face again!

Fra. So, my usual luck !- But I will instantly seek the major, and force him to return his prize, or-pistolspostchaise-" Payable at Sight!"-Pooh! [Exit, R.

Testy. To think, now, when our fortune depended on

that bit of paper, you should have given it away!

Janet. Don't tell me, sir; you had no business with such a paper! To wrong my affection-[Sobbing.] Oh! oh! oh!

Testy. There, now! as if I was to blame!

dear! what a miserable new-married man I am!

Janet. And what a miserable new-married woman I am! After all your fine speeches, to change so, and on our wedding-day, too!

#### SONG.-JANET.

How dearly Testy loved his bride A few short hours ago!

He call'd her then his joy, his pride,— He loved none other so!

The sky-larks carol blithe and sweet,

The lambkins sport and play;
More gaily Janet's heart would beat
At Testy's "Kiss me, pray!"

'Twas—" Pray, now, kiss me! won't you kiss me? Kiss me, Janet, pray!"

I little thought your tune would change On this our bridal day!

> But sour jealousy hath turn'd Poor Testy's silly brain;

The smiles he priz'd of late are spurn'd, E'en Janet's tears are vain!

The lark still earols blithe and sweet,

The lambkins sport and play;
But Janet's heart no more shall beat
To Testy's "Kiss me, pray!"

No more 'tis "Kiss me! won't you kiss me? Kiss me, Janet, pray!"

I little thought your tune would change On this our bridal day!

[Execut, 1..., Testy endeavouring to pacify her.

#### SCENE II .- An Apartment in Lady Rigid's Mansion.

#### Enter EMILY, L.

Emily. So, this unlucky note is really in circulation!—I cannot expect the major will spare me, piqued as he is by my rejection of his hand for an ungrateful libertine. But I have done with him—I will never forgive him—I shall hate and despise him!

#### Enter LADY RIGID, D. F.

Lady R. Well, my dear niece, all is arranged! I am so glad, because there is such pleasure in making those happy who deserve to be so.

Emily. [Coolly.] Yes, when they deserve it.

Lady R. And who has a greater right than the colonel? Dear, affectionate man! his emotion was so great just

now, when asking my consent to your union, that even I, "albeit unused to the melting mood," was nearly overcome by my sensibility. He reminded me of days long past. Ali! there are some things one never forgets.

Emily. My dear aunt, I never saw you thus affected before, and am sorry your feelings should have been thus excited in the present instance; for, most assuredly, I

shall never marry the colonel.

Lady R. Not marry the colonel!

Emily. No: my resolution is taken, and cannot be changed.

Lady R. What can be your motives?

Emily. Oh! I could give you a hundred, but it is useless to trouble you with one.

Lady R. I insist upon knowing them. What can you

reproach him with?

Emily. [Aside.] Shall I tell her the truth? - No; I must invent some excuse.

Lady R. Well, niece?

Emily. [Confidentially.] Well, then, I have learnedthat is, I believe him to be deeply involved; and you must acknowledge the character of—of—

Lady R. Of a debtor is not the most respectable.— Granted; but young men of fashion are so easily seduced [Footsteps are heard without. into expenses.

Emily. Hush! hush! he is here! Do not let him imagine he was the subject of our conversation. [Aside.] He must not learn my invention of his debts.

#### Enter Colonel Frankley, hastily, R.

Fra. [Aside, entering.] So! this will teach the major not to jest at my expense in future! - The ladies still here!

Lady R. Come hither, colonel, and once more essay to make your peace with Emily. I have pleaded for you in vain; she will not listen to one word I adduce in your favour. Really, such conduct is indefensible.

Fra. [Bowing to Lady Rigid.] Shocking, with such a

model before her eyes!

Emily. [Aside.] I do verily believe he is laughing at me!

Lady R. My dear colonel, I must candidly tell you, that Emily's motive for breaking off the match arose from vour being deeply involved in debt, andEmily. [Motioning her to be silent.] My dear aunt !-

Madam!-

Fra. [Aside.] Who the devil could have told her that? [Aloud.] Nay, madam, since you have been thus informed, permit me to explain. Brought up by my uncle, who is immensely rich, and who always promised I should be his heir—introduced when very young to the world, my rank in the army, and the expectations of boundless wealth, caused my company to be sought, and led me into excesses, which occasion my present embarrassment. Delicacy forbade me to acquaint my uncle with my losses; but the sale of my stud, and the most rigid economy for some time past, has enabled me to settle all but a few trifling debts.

Emily. [Aside.] Why, this is another discovery! I could not have believed it. [To Frankley.] Sir, my aunt has told you the truth: I refuse you, because I detest creditors, [Pointedly.] and will never marry any one who has bills or promissory notes of any kind in circulation.

Lady R. That difficulty shall soon be removed. Since your injustice forces me to it, I engage to discharge the colonel's debts. After that, I hope you will not think of breaking an engagement, in which the honour of my family is concerned. Come, my dear nephew, give me a list of your creditors.

Fra. My kind—my excellent annt! for the present I will avail myself of your generosity. A deputation from them await me at the Eagle Tavern, in Camden Town.

Lady R. I will send and desire their attendance at the

hall. [Crossing to R.] Come, colonel!

Fra. [Apart to Lady Rigid.] One word to appease Emily, and I am at your service. [Kisses her hand respectfully, and bows her off. R.] Emily!

Emily. Sir! leave me! I detest you - 1 hate you! I

never did like you!

Fra. Till now I flattered myself you did, madam.

#### Enter PHILIP, hastily, 1...

Phi. [Mysteriously.] Oh, sir! bad news!

Fra. No matter; out with it—no mystery now; -your

tidings cannot affect my happiness.

Phi. Well, sir, I've just met Mrs. Clover, formerly little Louisa; she came hither to celebrate her cousin Testy's wedding: — we fell into a gossip, and I learned from her,

that the story her ladyship got hold of about the portion was quite true: for Miss-

Emily. Philip, I forbid you to speak!

Fra. And I command you to tell the truth!

Phi. Well, then, Miss Emily portioned Louisa on condition she should tell Lady Rigid the story you heard.

Fra. I see it all! [To Emily.] Your love for me

prompted you to deceive your aunt.

Emily. But this last adventure has decided me; and

since Major O'Doherty-

Phi. Oh! don't be alarmed about the major, miss: the doctor says he is in no danger—that it is but a slight wound.

Emily. Danger! wound!

Fra. [To Philip, anyrily.] Babbler!

Emily. I understand: you challenged him - perilled your lives for a joke—a trifle!

Fra. But all is now amicably arranged between us.-

Philip, has the major sent the bill?

Phi. No, sir: he had given it in charge to his groom to deliver to her ladyship; but, overcome by your generosity in the duel, he despatched me after him.

Fra. Well, and you overtook him?

Phi. The major told me I might be certain of finding him at the Engle.

Emily. This Eagle seems very attractive.

Phi. Oh, yes, miss! it's the famous half-way house between the city and Hampstead Heath; -the major always takes his glass there when he comes this way, and so does his groom; for there I found him safe enough!

Emily. That was fortunate. Give me this unlucky pa-

per, that I may destroy it.

Phi. Unfortunately, my lady, the fellow had lost ithow, when, or where, I could not learn, for he was a good deal the worse for wear-he was what you may call halfseas over!

Emily. Well, so that my aunt does not hear of it—Ha! she is here!

Enter LADY RIGID and Villagers, R., followed by TESTY and JANET.

Lady R. [To Frankley.] My dear nephew, I have satisfied your friends; and now I trust there will be no impediment to your marriage.

Testy. [Aside.] His marriage! - That's good! I've

just nicked the time!

Janet. [Apart to him.] Testy, take my advice, and do

not give that paper to Miss-

Testy. [Apart.] Hold your tongue, you fool!—It's my only chance of getting the lease of the farm;—and, besides, I shall be glad to have my revenge in sight of the whole village, who have done nothing but jeer and flout me all day. [To Lady Rigid.] Madam—my lady! I beg leave to ask you if the colonel is going to marry my young lady?

Lady R. Certainly he is.

Testy. Then I have a bill of his in my pocket; it cost me two gallons of ale to regain it; but I didn't mind that, when my lease depended on it.

Fra. [Aside.] That infernal paper again!

Testy. My young lady asked me for it this morning, so I've brought it for her.

Emily. [Crossing to Testy.] Give it me-quick!

Lady R. [Stopping her.] Your pardon, niece — you have nothing to do with it; I am responsible for the colonel's debts. Give it to me, Testy.

Testy. No, no, my lady; it don't concern you.

Lady R. You are mistaken. [Showing bills.] See! here are nearly a dozen similar ones I have just discharged!

Testy. [In amazement.] No, sure! [Aside.] What a

killer!

Emily. Yes, Testy, my aunt will honour all the colonel's bills.

Testy. [Aside, groaning.] Oh!

Janet. [To Testy.] Well, why don't you give it her ladyship?

Testy. If I must-[Giving the note to Lady Rigid.]

There, my lady!

Lady R. [Reading.] "Payable at sight — a kiss to the bearer." What is the meaning of this?

Fra. Only a bachelor's debt, aunt.

Lady R. You, whom I have named as a model of chastity!—

Fra. [Apart to Emily, having glanced over the note.] How fortunate! it is undated! [To Lady Rigid.] Nay, the debt was contracted when I was a minor, and its validity may be disputed. But I have too much delicacy to wrong this poor man; so, as your ladyship has promised to discharge all my debts—

Emily. [Laughing.] Yes, my dear aunt, as you have

promised-

Lady R. I shall acquit myself of the obligation. So, Testy, since it must be so, I shall do you the honour of allowing you a chaste salute.

[Testy makes grimaces, and salutes Lady Rigid reluctantly—she retires up, as if blushing—the rest

endeavour to suppress a laugh.

Testy. I trust, Miss Emily, as some compensation for my disappointment, [Looking significantly at Lady Rigid.] in not receiving the full value of my bill, that you will speak a good word to her ladyship about the farm.

[Lady Rigid comes forward.

Emily. Assuredly. My dear aunt, I am under a promise to Testy to obtain a renewal of his lease; and, after the honour you have done him, I don't see that you can well refuse—

Lady R. Nor will I. Testy, the farm is yours. Testy & Janet. Heaven bless your ladyship!

Emily. And, besides something for household expenses, I premise twenty pounds to your first child—" PAYABLE AT SIGHT!"

# DISPOSITION OF THE CHARACTERS AT THE FALL OF THE CURTAIN.

Villayers.

Villagers.

PHILIP. EMILY. FRANKLEY. LADY R. TESTY. JANET.

R.]

[L.

THE END.



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